

death. Such was the reward of treachery.³⁰ But let us say a few words respecting our poor Christians who were led away to the country of fire and flames. We know as yet but little of the matter; but that little is very remarkable.

Two Huron captives, escaped from the hands of the Iroquois, having been witnesses of the horrible torments which they made these poor victims suffer, have filled us with both grief and joy. They tell us that these good Neophytes chanted the praises of God in the midst of the flames; that it seemed as if Heaven, toward which they cast unceasingly their eyes, had afforded them more satisfaction [110] and delight than the fire had caused them pain and anguish. But they extol, above all, one named Joseph Onaharé; some of them say that he deserved the martyr's palm, for indeed he suffered for Jesus Christ; and let us see how.

That Young man had, for some time past, looked upon the Iroquois as nothing more than enemies of the faith and destroyers of the Christian Religion. He carried arms against them with the object only of preserving the Church in which he had been born in Jesus Christ; he had made the resolution to suffer and die with constancy for his cause. For this reason, finding himself a prisoner, and bound, he rendered Christ a thousand praises; thanked him for having bestowed on him the faith and Baptism; prayed loudly, in the face of all his enemies; and imparted courage to his comrades, exhorting them to suffer the torments which had been prepared for them as children of God, to whom Heaven was open. The Iroquois forbade him to pray to God, or to encourage his people. He looked upon them with